

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W
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P R 031113Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 399

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 5015

USIAC

FOR IOP/F. INFO: INA, SECSTATE NEA/PAB, CU/NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PIA PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS PROJECT

REF: (A) USIA 12624., (B) ISLAMABAD 4960

1. INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE FROM PIA STATES ARRIVAL
INAUGURAL FLIGHT ETA NYC 2045 HOURS JULY 1. FIRST RETURN
FLIGHT DEPARTS JULY 5, BUT JOURNALISTS BEING GIVEN 90-DAY
TICKETS GOOD FOR ANY PIA RETURNING FLIGHTS.

2. PIA ARRANGING FOUR DAYS SIGHTSEEING OTHER ACTIVITIES
NEW YORK TO EVENING JULY 5. ALL EXPENSES PAID FOR 50
JOURNALISTS.

3. PIA HAS NO OBJECTION OUR SETTING UP SUPPLEMENTARY
PROGRAM AND BELIEVES MOST OF GROUP WILL WANT TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY IF AVAILABLE. NEARLY ALL ARE
POLITICAL WRITERS" WITH MANY EDITORS AND SENIOR
REPORTERS INTERESTED IN POLITICAL/ECONOMIC SUBJECTS.
VISIT TO WASHINGTON BIG BONUS FOR THEM.

4. EMBASSY SOUNDING OUT MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO
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BE SURE THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION. WE ARE MAKING IT CLEAR

THAT PROJECT TENTATIVE UNTIL WE OBTAIN CLEARANCES, AND FUNDING.

5. IN 1976 COUNTRY PLAN WE INCLUDED INDIANA JOURNALISTS MULTI-REGIONAL GRANT COSTING MINIMUM DOLS6500. SINCE JOURNALISTS TOUR FALLS UNDER SAME PROGRAM OBJECTIVE WE SUGGEST THIS AMOUNT CAN BE TAKEN FROM IVP ALLOCATION AND WE WILL CANCEL INDIANA PROJECT THIS YEAR. FINDING ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS A PROBLEM. WE HAVE FIVE IVP GRANTS IN PROCESS (REFTEL "B") AND SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THESE MUST BE AVAILABLE. MOREOVER WE DO NOT WISH REDUCE IVP ACTIVITY NOW THAT PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE ENTERING NEW PHASE MUTUAL COOPERATION. WE HOPE AND URGE CU CAN COME UP WITH NECESSARY ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

6. POST GOE FUNDS EXHAUSTED. HAVE REQUESTED CANCELLATION TWO ORDERS ALREADY SENT VENDORS. IF SUCCESSFUL IN RETRIEVING THESE WILL TRANSFER DOLS300. WILL ADVISE.

7. SUGGEST OUR 4-DAY PROGRAM BEGIN EITHER JULY 5 OR 6 DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF GROUP. PIA, NEW YORK, CAN ADVISE ON THIS. WE REALIZE GROUP WILL MISS PHILADELPHIA JULY 4TH CELEBRATIONS BUT THIS DISADVANTAGE OFFSET BY MORE WEEKDAY TIME IN WASHINGTON WHICH FOR THESE JOURNALISTS MAY BE MUCH MORE VALUABLE.

8. AMBASSADOR HEARTILY ENDORSES PROGRAM. POTENTIALITIES EXCITING AND OPPORTUNITY TOO GOOD TO MISS.
HOPWOOD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA05015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750194-0276
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750687/aaaadbkm.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USIA 12624, 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PIA PAKISTANI JOURNALISTS PROJECT
TAGS: OEXC, PK
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006